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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

CWH

RELEASE AS SANITIZED

NO.

DATE

6 Apr. 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. L C J WH/Bch. III		APR 6 1954	APR 6 1954	[] []	
2. Mr. Esterline				[]	
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6 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Honduran Chief of Air Force Appeal for U.S. counter-sabotage Assistance.

1. Pursuant to DD/P's advice that General Cabell will discuss the subject with Major General R. H. Easley, the notes in the following paragraph are forwarded for General Cabell's use.

A. On April 4th Headquarters was advised by [] that the Chief of the Honduran Air Force had requested assistance from the Air Mission Honduras in detection and prevention of future sabotage attempts. The foregoing request was related to evidence of sabotage of Honduran Air Force planes. To date, responsibility for this sabotage has not been placed, although a Honduran Air Force Lieutenant is suspected. The Chief of our Air Mission has stated that he cannot accede to the Honduran request on orders from General Hood, Chief Caribbean Air Command (it is not known whether General Hood turned down this specific request). The Honduran Chief of Air Force proceeded to appeal to Ambassador Willauer.. The Ambassador regards this as a rare opportunity to cultivate friendship with the Honduran Air Force Chief, and has suggested the immediate assignment of a U.S. Air intelligence man to the U.S. Air Mission, Tegucigalpa, under cover of mechanic, electrical inspector, or similar appropriate assignment. The Ambassador wishes to stress the importance of immediate exploitation of this opportunity and has asked that authority be granted by April 7 for him to advise the Chief, Honduran Air Force, that help will be forthcoming. CIA fully endorses the Ambassador's recommendation, in the belief that a show of assistance to the Hondurans will be useful to U.S.-Honduran relations, particularly during this period of restlessness in the area.

2. Although we do not know whether the Honduran Chief of Air Force appeal was specifically ruled on by General Hood, it is our belief that General Hood's position would relate to policy against our using military aid programs for intelligence purposes. However, since subject request originates with the Hondurans, the policy presumably may be waived.

3. CIA has no appropriate personnel for such an assignment immediately available. Incidentally, WHD does not feel it to be properly our function to supply security personnel to the Honduran Government. Our interest in the effect of such an assignment by the armed forces is our belief that such assistance to the Honduran Chief of Air Force will indirectly make him more amenable to helping operations relating

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to PROGRESS; he is in a position to help or hinder and is reported to have formerly been considered somewhat anti-U.S. If General Ramey is agreeable to taking favorable action on subject, a cable to this effect will be sent to Honduras for the Ambassador by 7 April. Details may later be forwarded as available.

4. A cable received April 5 from LINCOLN stresses the importance to PROGRESS to follow the Ambassador's recommendation as early as possible.

5. [] extension 4494, will be in readiness to pass to [] the results of General Cabell's meeting with General Ramey.

J. C. KING
Chief, WED

WH/FPH/pw

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee

cc: DD/P

CWH

WH/Bch.III

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